

REMARKS

There are now pending for examination Claims 10-20, 22-31, and 34-45.

Claims 22, 28, 31, 34, and 42 are independent. Claim 21 has been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 32 and 33 have been cancelled without prejudice or waiver of their subject matter and Claims 35-45 are newly added.

In view of the above amendments and the newly added claims, and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 28, 31, and 34 recite patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, Applicant has amended each of Claims 28, 31, and 34 to place each such claim into independent form. While in each case slight differences exist, it is respectfully submitted that the salient and patentable features of the invention have been maintained and that each of independent Claims 28, 31, and 34 are now in allowable form.

Claim 22 is directed to a linear motor comprising a coil and a magnet, one of the coil and the magnet moving relative to the other by flowing a current to the coil. The invention is characterized in that a metal film is provided at least at a surface of the magnet which faces the coil.

Claim 23 is also directed to a linear motor with coil and a magnet but further comprises a jacket covering the coil and forming a flow path through which a refrigerant flows. The invention as recited in Claim 23 provides for the metal film to be provided at least at a surface of the jacket which faces the magnet.

Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Lee (U.S. Patent No. 6,130,490). Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Li (U.S. Patent No. 6,417,917). In view of the above amendments and for reasons which follow, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

As noted above, Claim 22 incorporates an inventive feature of a metal film which is provided at least at a surface of the magnet which faces the coil, and Claim 23 provides that a metal film is provided at least at a surface of the jacket which faces the magnet. These features are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art.

Lee is directed to a linear motor and discloses a conductive coating, such as a thin metal film, which has high resistivity but is conductive enough to avoid any charge buildup while not conductive enough to support an eddy current. However, this reference is silent as to the particular location at which the conductive coating is provided.

Li is not believed to meet the shortcomings of Lee.

Li features a stage device in which the shift in the center of gravity of the stage device and the reaction force caused when at least one of first and second stage devices move, are cancelled out by moving a moving member. The shift in the center of gravity of a stage device and the reaction force caused when the stage devices move that cannot be cancelled out by moving the moving member are completely cancelled out by moving a base. However, Li merely features a flat plate shaped member 68 made of nonmagnetic materials such as ceramics. (See, column 14, lines 13-20) Thus, Li cannot meet the shortcomings of Lee. Accordingly, even in combination the two references are not understood to teach or suggest the invention as set forth

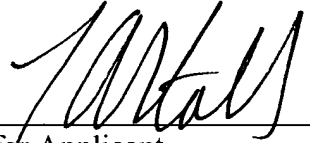
in either of independent Claims 22 and 23. Applicant respectfully submits that each of those claims is patentable over the art of record.

The remaining claims in the above-identified application, including newly presented Claims 35-45, depend either directly or indirectly from one of the above-discussed independent claims and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to the independent claims. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Stahl', written over a horizontal line.

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